telecom facilities such as Internet, Integrated Digital Network Services Intelligent Network Services and Cellular Mobile Services are also available in Meghalaya. Further expansion of Telecom Network and Services are being done.

Waiting list for telephone connections in Shillong

3847. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya as on 31 st January, 2000;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted in Meghalaya during the last 3 years, district-wise; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government to grant telephone connections to all the wait-listed persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya as on 31st January, 2000 was 77.

(b) The number of telephone connections allotted in Meghalaya during the last 3 years, district-wise is given below :

Name of District	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
East Khasi Hills	2191	2847	4854
West Khasi Hills	93	56	122
East Garo Hills	37	69	105
West Garo Hills	263	748	686
South Garo Hills	Nil	3	36
Ri-Bhoi	41	57	213
Jaintia Hills	121	234	298

(c) Opening of new telephone exchanges and expansion of existing exchanges have been planned to grant telephone connections to all the wait-listed persons by March, 2001 progressively.